Town of New Castle

Chappaqua, NY

Town Supervisor Lisa Katz

Pledge Summary

The Town of New Castle retains a bucolic feel and low-density residential character. Chappaqua and Millwood continue to serve as the Town's main centers of retail activity and community gathering. Through the purchase or acquisition of a number of undeveloped properties, the Town has dedicated over 200 acres for open space and recreational use in New Castle, enhancing both active and passive recreational opportunities and fortifying the Town's natural condition. The preservation of these aspects of the Town – its residential character; bucolic, natural, peaceful sense of place; and healthy environment – remain a primary focus. These features, along with the excellent schools and the Town's proximity to New York City, are the aspects of New Castle that attract new residents and are most prized by community members.

Action Items Committed for 2023

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.
- Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.
- Earn or maintain recognition for being a wildlife-friendly city by participating in other wildlife and habitat conservation efforts (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Community Wildlife Habitat program).
- Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Victoria Bayard Tipp	2026	4/30/2026	
Town Supervisor Victoria Tipp	2025	3/31/2025	Signatories
Town Supervisor Victoria Bayard Tipp	2024	3/27/2024	Signatories
Town Supervisor Lisa Katz	2023	3/21/2023	Signatories
Town of New Castle New York, Town Supervisor Lisa Katz	2022	4/28/2022	Signatories

Action Items

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In total, how many individuals have been reached through the Mayors' Monarch Pledge in your community this year (Jan-Dec)? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field below (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only.).

60

Of the total number of individuals engaged, how many youth (0-18) were reached through the Mayors' Monarch Pledge in your community this year (Jan. - Dec.)? If none, please write 0." (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only.)

45 adults 15 youth

In total, how many acres of monarch habitat have been created in your city in the last 12 months? Please limit your answer to only the number of acres in the answer field below (e.g., 3). Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

0.02

Where was the habitat created this year? Example locations may include residences, schools, places of worship, rights-of-way, roadsides, community gardens, shared public spaces, and more.

Town Hall (garden and riparian corridor)

How are you leveraging the Mayors' Monarch Pledge program to engage marginalized communities, such as low-income communities or communities of color?

Giveaway 'free' native trees, seeds and invasive species field guides purchased by the Town of New Castle

What was your community's motivation for taking and continuing to work on the Mayors' Monarch Pledge?

A continuation of pollinator habitat conservation momentum following New Castle's Bee City designation in 2022 courtesy of the Xerces Society, NYSDEC trees-for-tribs award (200+ trees & shrubs) and 300 red maple saplings donated by the Rotary Club..

What resources have been most helpful to you thus far and what new resources would you like to see to help meet your goals? What resources would be useful to help expand equitable engagement in community processes and access to high-quality, usable nature?

The continuation of reducing weed and mowing consistent with relevant ordinances has established New Castle Parks & Rec mowing practices at select Town Parks whereby maintenance is more focused on promoting meadow and understory communities, and dissuading weekly flush cuts of herbs. Any community/person accounts of the benefits experienced by reducing the amount of landscaping (e.g. money saved, noise/air pollution

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reduction, species encountered through natural recruitment in undisturbed environs would help in promoting the message.

What else should we know about your monarch butterfly conservation efforts over the last year?

We planned and focused our planning efforts for seed giveaways utilizing Wild seed collection from New Castle Parks following techniques outlined by the Bureau of Land Management. To aide in this process, the Conservation Board invited 1. Hilltop Hanover Farm and Environmental Center Native Plants Curator Lindsey Feinberg, to discuss her methods when performing such harvesting for the nurseries native plant greenhouse.

Selected Action Items

Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

MilkweedSeedPlanting.docx

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

Milkweed Rock Garden seed burst.jpg

How many people attended your event? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

50

What species were collected or propagated?

Common Milkweed

What community organizations, groups, or leaders (if any) did you partner with or engage to host the event?

New Castle Conservation Board

Please describe the milkweed seed collection and propagation effort that you hosted.

From existing, naturally recruited and allowed to prosper by removing from weekly maintenance/trimming schedule population of common milkweed at Town Hall, a total of four 'bursting' seed pods were harvested for seed extraction. Envelopes were filled with ~15-20 seeds each still attached to cotton bolls from three of these pods for ease of distribution to citizens and visitors at the milkweed seed giveaway held on October 28, 2023 at Gedney Park in Millwood NY. In addition to seeds, folks were given the two-page

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milkweed seed planting guide and the field guide "Plant Invaders of Mid-Atlantic Natural Areas, Jil M. Swearingen and Judith P. Fulton. Seeds from the fourth pod were donated to the Chappaqua Library for their community seed bank.

Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

Milkweed Rock Garden.jpg

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

Milkweed Rock Garden I.jpg

Where is the demonstration garden located and how does this location relate to the cultural significance of the monarch (if relevant)? (Please provide an address or coordinates, if possible)

The naturally recruited rock outcrop demonstration garden was allowed to mature following the areas designation as a no mow/weed whack after the Town's Environmental Coordinator observed young specimens emerging amongst the ground cover. It serves as an example of the Conservation Board's to educate folks on reducing active landscaping and maintenance promote at a minimum, the message to at least determine what native species do/can exist on their properties while reducing maintenance efforts and costs.

What community organizations, groups, or leaders (if any) did you partner with or engage to complete this effort?

Conservation Board, Chappaqua Garden Club

What is the size of the demonstration garden (in acres)? Please limit your answer to only the number of acres in the answer field below (e.g., 0.5 acres). For reference, 1 acre = 43,560 square feet and is about the size of a football field without the end zones. Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

0.02

Earn or maintain recognition for being a wildlife-friendly city by participating in other wildlife and habitat conservation efforts (i.e., National Wildlife Federation’s Community Wildlife Habitat program).

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

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2022 Tree City USA.pdf

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

New Castle NY Bee City USA.jpg

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

2023 Annual Mailer free trees.docx

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

ArborDayFoundationDonation-EliBrownProject.pdf

What community organizations, groups, or leaders (if any) did you partner with or engage to complete this effort?

Conservation Board, Chappaqua Garden Club (Note: We're currently applying for 2023 Tree City USA which is due at end of November).

What program was launched or maintained to complete this effort? (Please include a link to the program, if possible)

The Rotary Club (through Bartlett Tree Service) donated 300 red maple saplings to the Town in April '23 that were planted in three park locations by Conservation Board volunteers, and 25 of these trees were given away to citizens/visitors at Gedney Park in Millwood NY on April 22, 2023 (Earth Day). The Garden Club donated native herbs as part of a local high school student volunteer group project at the Chappaqua Train Station which involved removing Japanese knotweed and planting. In further support, a local couple living in a condominium donated the trees they received for joining the Arbor Day Foundation as they were unable to plant these trees at their communal setting residence.

Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

2023 Fat and Sassy goats.pdf

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

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Pinelands Nursery Seed Mixes Tercia Brook.pdf

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

Schichtels Nursery Tree NYPA 2023 New Castle.pdf

What is the total acreage of land treated to remove invasive plants? Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

0.34

Please describe the extent of revisions or maintenance to invasive species removal programs, as well as the practices or techniques used to remove the invasive plants.

Within Tercia Brook banks located at New Castle Town Hall, goats were used to remove a dominant cover primarily comprised of mugwort and porcelain berry within the watercourse corridor. Goats visited the site in May and September 2023. The area was hydroseeded with native forbs and grasses in October 2023. Above the banks on level land maintained as turf cover, 12 native trees were planted which included eastern redbud (2), flowering dogwood (6) and eastern red cedar (4) were also planted in October 2023. As the watercourse corridor represents the main artery of the Flood Control Project at Chappaqua authorized by Congress in the Flood Control Act of 1948, it is required to be maintained as herb dominant and void of woody species per the US Army Corps of Engineers and NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. As a result, it is anticipated future maintenance utilizing goats and supplemental seedings/plantings will continue to promote a composition of more native species in promoting sloped meadow.

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